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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/023,671	12/18/2001	Christine McBride	CER-296	3208
20311	7590	10/01/2004		
MUSERLIAN AND LUCAS AND MERCANTI, LLP 475 PARK AVENUE SOUTH NEW YORK, NY 10016				
			EXAMINER WONG, LESLIE A	
			ART UNIT 1761	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 10/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/023,671

Applicant(s)

MCBRIDE ET AL.

Examiner

Leslie Wong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anonymous (508653 FSTA), Furata et al (448203 FSTA), and Reineccius et al (1988(10):T0028 FSTA) for the reasons set forth in rejecting the claims in the last Office action.

Anonymous (508653 FSTA) discloses the encapsulation of flavors with cyclodextrin (see abstract).

Furata et al (448203 FSTA) disclose the cyclodextrin encapsulation of flavors (see abstract).

Reineccius et al (1988(10):T0028 FSTA) disclose the use of beta cyclodextrin to encapsulate fruit flavors (see abstract).

The claims differ as to the specific addition of the encapsulated flavor to prepared food products.

In the absence of a showing to the contrary, the addition of a cyclodextrin encapsulated flavor to prepared food products is no more than expected and well-within the skill of the art. Applicant is using a known product for its art-recognized function.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to use the cyclodextrin encapsulated flavor of Anonymous (508653

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FSTA), Furata et al (448203 FSTA), and Reineccius et al (1988(10):T0028 FSTA) in prepared food products as the use of encapsulated flavors in food products is conventional in the art.

The prior art clearly teaches the encapsulation of flavors with cyclodextrin. The observation of still another beneficial result in an old process cannot form the basis of patentability, see *In re Jones* 1941 CD 686. In the absence of a showing to the contrary it appears that Applicant obtains no more than what is to be expected.

Applicant's arguments filed July 7, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the claimed invention is directed to the addition of an encapsulated flavor to a food during either the cooking or the freezing of the food.

The prior art clearly teaches the encapsulation of flavors with cyclodextrin. The use of encapsulated flavors in food products is well-known. In the absence of a showing to the contrary, the addition of a cyclodextrin encapsulated flavor to prepared food products is no more than expected and well-within the skill of the art. Applicant is using a known product for its art-recognized function.

Applicant argues that the previously submitted declaration

The declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 filed December 10, 2003 is insufficient to overcome the rejection of claims 6-9 based upon 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as set forth in the last Office action because for the following reasons.

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1) The showing does not compare to the art relied upon. Cyclodextrin is a known encapsulant as disclosed by the cited prior art. It is not clear why the declaration is directed to other encapsulants.

2) There is no statistical analysis to support Applicant's conclusions. Applicant presents obtained data but there is no analysis of this data. The mere presentation of data does not show a statistical difference. It appears that Applicant performs a standard ranking where the results of the test can be checked for significant differences using known methods of analysis.

3) The results appear to be no more than expected as cyclodextrin is a known encapsulant.

In the absence of unexpected results, it is not seen how the claimed invention differs from the teachings of the prior art. Applicant's claims are drawn to a combination of known components which produces expected results, see *In re Kerkhoven* 205 USPQ 1069 and *In re Gershon* 152 USPQ 602.

All of the claim limitations and arguments have been considered. None of them are seen as serving as basis for patentability.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

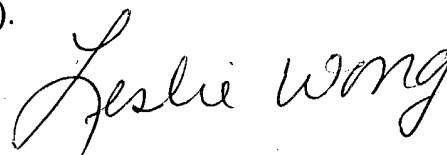
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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leslie Wong whose telephone number is 571-272-1411. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Milton Cano can be reached on 571-272-1398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Leslie Wong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1761

LAW
September 30, 2004